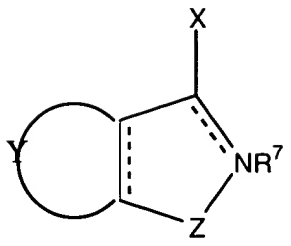


I

and having an IC_{50} of 100 μM or lower for inhibiting poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase *in vitro*,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable base or acid addition salt, prodrug, metabolite, optical isomer or stereoisomer thereof, wherein:

X is double-bonded oxygen or -OH;

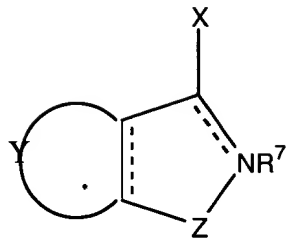
R^7, when present, is hydrogen;

Y represents the atoms necessary to form a fused phenyl, pyridine, or pyrimidine ring; and

Z is $-R^6C=CR^3-$ wherein R^6 and R^3, taken together, form a fused phenyl, pyridine, or pyrimidine ring;

wherein said fused phenyl, pyridine, or pyrimidine ring of Y or Z is independently unsubstituted or substituted with at least one non-hydrogen, non-interfering substituent.

224. (Amended) A method of treating septic shock in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of formula I containing at least one ring nitrogen:



I

and having an IC_{50} of 100 μM or lower for inhibiting poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase *in vitro*,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable base or acid addition salt, prodrug, metabolite, optical isomer or stereoisomer thereof, wherein:

X is double-bonded oxygen or -OH;

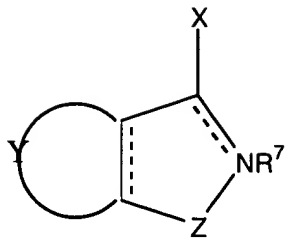
R^7, when present, is hydrogen;

Y represents the atoms necessary to form a fused phenyl, pyridine, or pyrimidine ring; and

Z is $-R^6C=CR^3-$ wherein R^6 and R^3, taken together, form a fused phenyl, pyridine, or pyrimidine ring;

wherein said fused phenyl, pyridine, or pyrimidine ring of Y or Z is independently unsubstituted or substituted with at least one non-hydrogen, non-interfering substituent.

227. (Amended) A method of treating diabetes in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of formula I containing at least one ring nitrogen:



I

and having an IC_{50} of 100 μM or lower for inhibiting poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase *in vitro*,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable base or acid addition salt, prodrug, metabolite, optical isomer or stereoisomer thereof, wherein:

X is double-bonded oxygen or -OH;

R^7, when present, is hydrogen;

Y represents the atoms necessary to form a fused phenyl, pyridine, or pyrimidine ring; and

Z is $-R^6C=CR^3-$ wherein R^6 and R^3, taken together, form a fused phenyl, pyridine, or pyrimidine ring;

wherein said fused phenyl, pyridine, or pyrimidine ring of Y or Z is independently unsubstituted or substituted with at least one non-hydrogen, non-interfering substituent.

229. (Amended) A method of treating arthritis in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of formula I containing at least one ring nitrogen: